

Application No. 10/024,269  
Amendment dated December 22, 2004  
Office Action dated September 22, 2004

### Listing of Claims

Claims 1-44 (canceled)

45. (currently amended) A slide case for holding and transporting at least one slide, the slide case comprising:

- a base comprising four walls connected to a bottom;

- a rack removably positionable within the base and comprising

- a frame comprising

- [[a]] substantially planar and opposed first and second

- [[sides]] side walls, and

- substantially planar and opposed [[ends]] end walls, each of the end walls having ends rigidly connected to ends of the first and second side walls [[sides]];

- a first support bar comprising

- a first edge connected to an inner surface of the first side wall to cantilever the first support bar from the first side wall, the first support bar being deflectable with respect to the first side wall, and

- a first opening adapted to support [[for supporting]] one end of a slide, and

- a second support bar comprising

- a first edge connected to an inner surface of the second side wall to cantilever the second support bar from the second side wall, the second support bar being deflectable with respect to the second side wall, and

- a second opening disposed opposite the first opening and adapted to support [[for supporting]] an opposite end of the slide; and

- a cover having a projection on an inner surface and being positionable on the base, [[to cause]] the projection on the cover adapted to press against the slide and deflect the support bars, thereby securing the slide between the rack and the cover.

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46. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 wherein each of the first and second support bars angles downward from a respective inner surface toward lower edges of the opposed ends of the frame, each of the first and second support bars forming an included acute angle with the respective inner surface and comprising respective ends that are spaced away from the opposed ends of the frame.

47. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 further comprising pairs of opposed openings in the first and second support bars for holding and transporting a plurality of slides, each of the openings being substantially diamond shaped with two opposed corners of the diamond shape defining a line substantially perpendicular to a first edge of a respective one of the first and second support bars.

48. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 wherein the lower edges of the opposed ends of the frame define a lowermost boundary of the frame, and the sides of the frame have respective lower edges above the lowermost boundary of the frame.

49. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 further comprising:

- a first latch portion disposed on the base; and
- a second latch portion disposed on the frame such that upon positioning the rack within the base, the first and second latch portions are placed in juxtaposition to releasably secure the rack in the base.

50. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 49 wherein the first latch portion comprises a detent disposed on a wall of the base, the second latch portion comprises a recess disposed in an end of the frame, and the end of the frame is deflectable to permit the detent to be moved with respect to the recess between latched and unlatched positions.

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51. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 wherein the projection comprises at least one rib extending substantially perpendicular to a plane of the slide.

52. (previously presented) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 wherein the frame further comprises first and second holes, each hole extending through a different one of the ends of the frame to facilitate picking up and carrying the rack.

Claims 53-57 (canceled)

58. (new) The slide case in accordance with claim 45 further comprising a bag containing the cover positioned on the base containing the rack.

59. (new) The slide case in accordance with claim 58 wherein the bag comprises a vacuum sealed barrier bag.

60. (new) The slide case in accordance with claim 58 wherein the bag comprises an aluminum foil bag.